

IRON MAN



Tony Stark returned from a stint in rehab, dealing with an addiction to the morphine that he had used to treat extensive injuries after a long conflict with the cosmic being known as Korvac. After reuniting with Patsy Walker, Tony proposed. But despite sharing his love, Patsy told him she wasn't ready for marriage, and they temporarily parted ways.

Meanwhile, Tony's old colleague Vic Martinelli has been trying to reach him to reveal a shocking secret.

**I DON'T
KNOW...
MAYBE IT
WAS UTAH**



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IRON MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, DON HECK & JACK KIRBY

NO **PERSONAL JET** FOR A WHILE. I WANT TO BE AROUND **PEOPLE** RIGHT NOW. IT FEELS GOOD TO BE AROUND **PEOPLE**.

THIS WAS A STRATEGY I DISCUSSED IN **REHAB**. THE **NOISE**, THE **BUSYNESS**. IT'S A WELCOME **DISTRACTION**.



THE ONE THING TO REMEMBER ABOUT **REHAB** IS IT'S A **COMPLETELY DIFFERENT REALITY** FROM THE REAL WORLD.



SOMETHING TO DRINK? FOR FIRST-CLASS PASSENGERS, WE HAVE BEER, WINE... I CAN EVEN DO A FEW **COCKTAILS**.

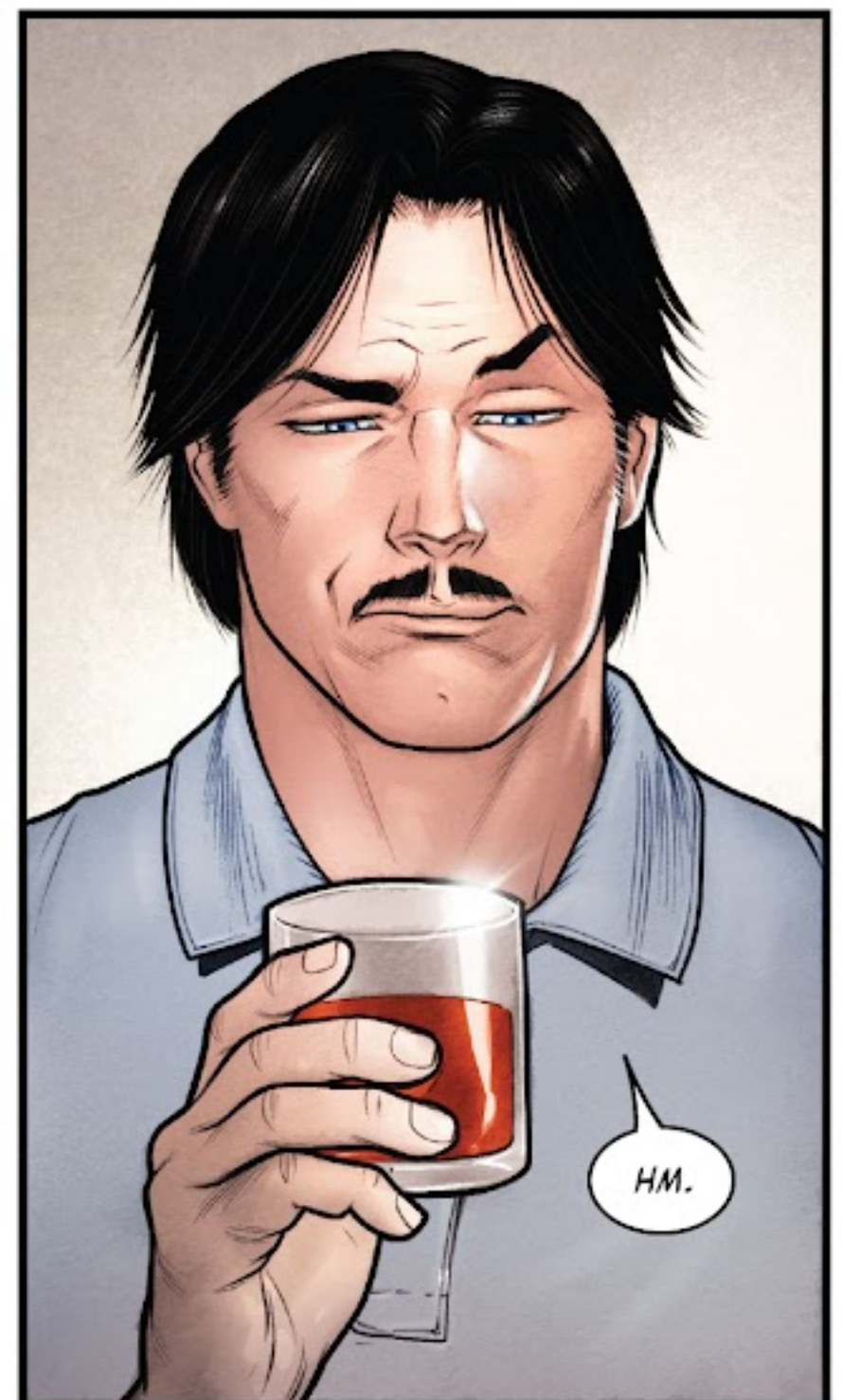
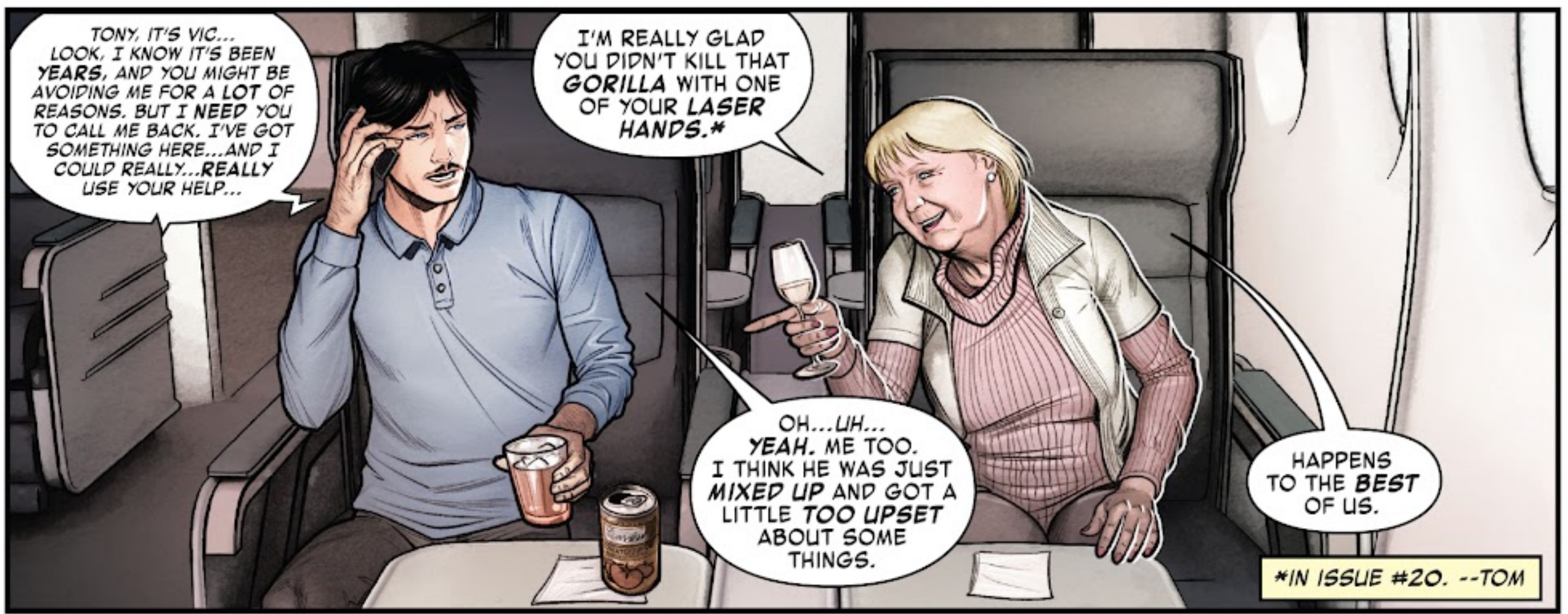


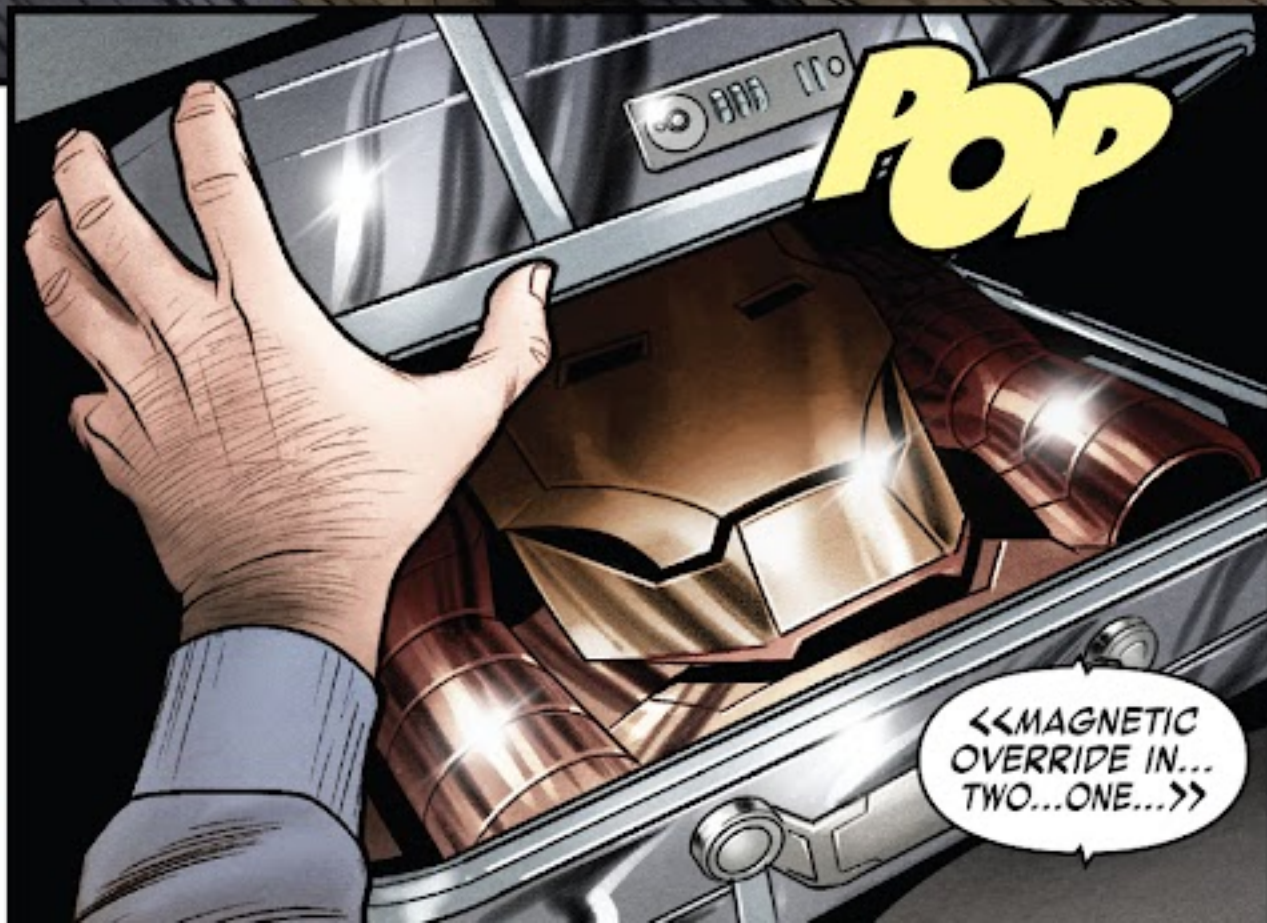
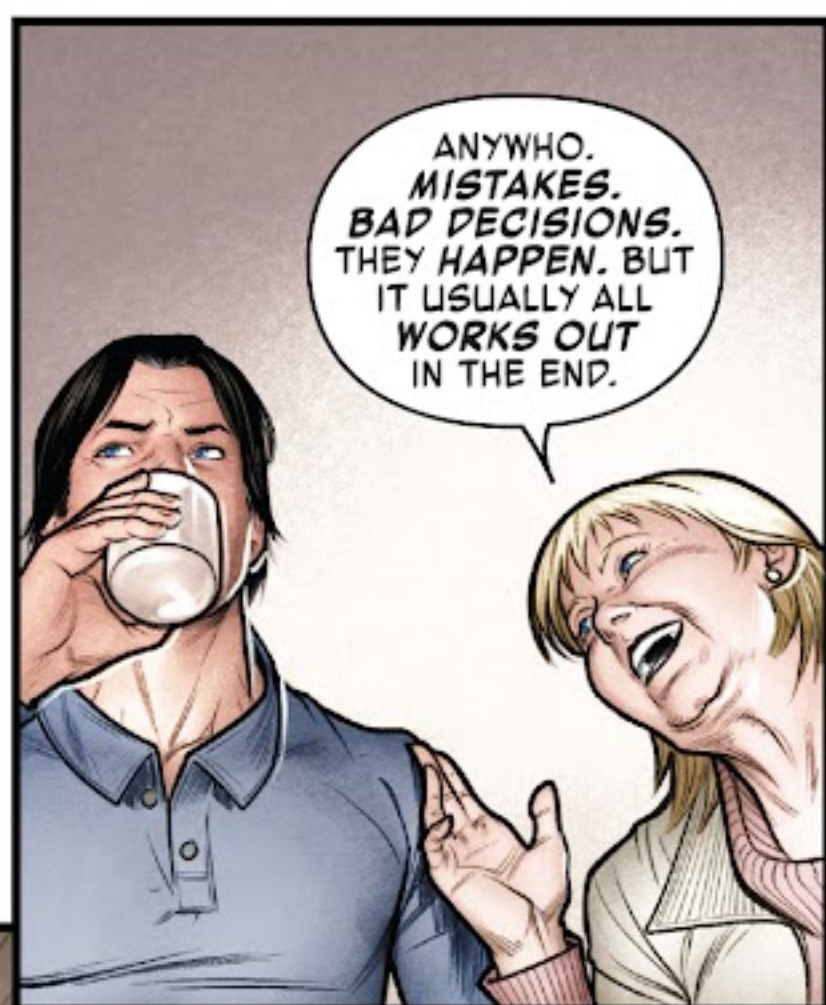
NO, THANK YOU-- I'D JUST LIKE SOME **TOMATO JUICE**.

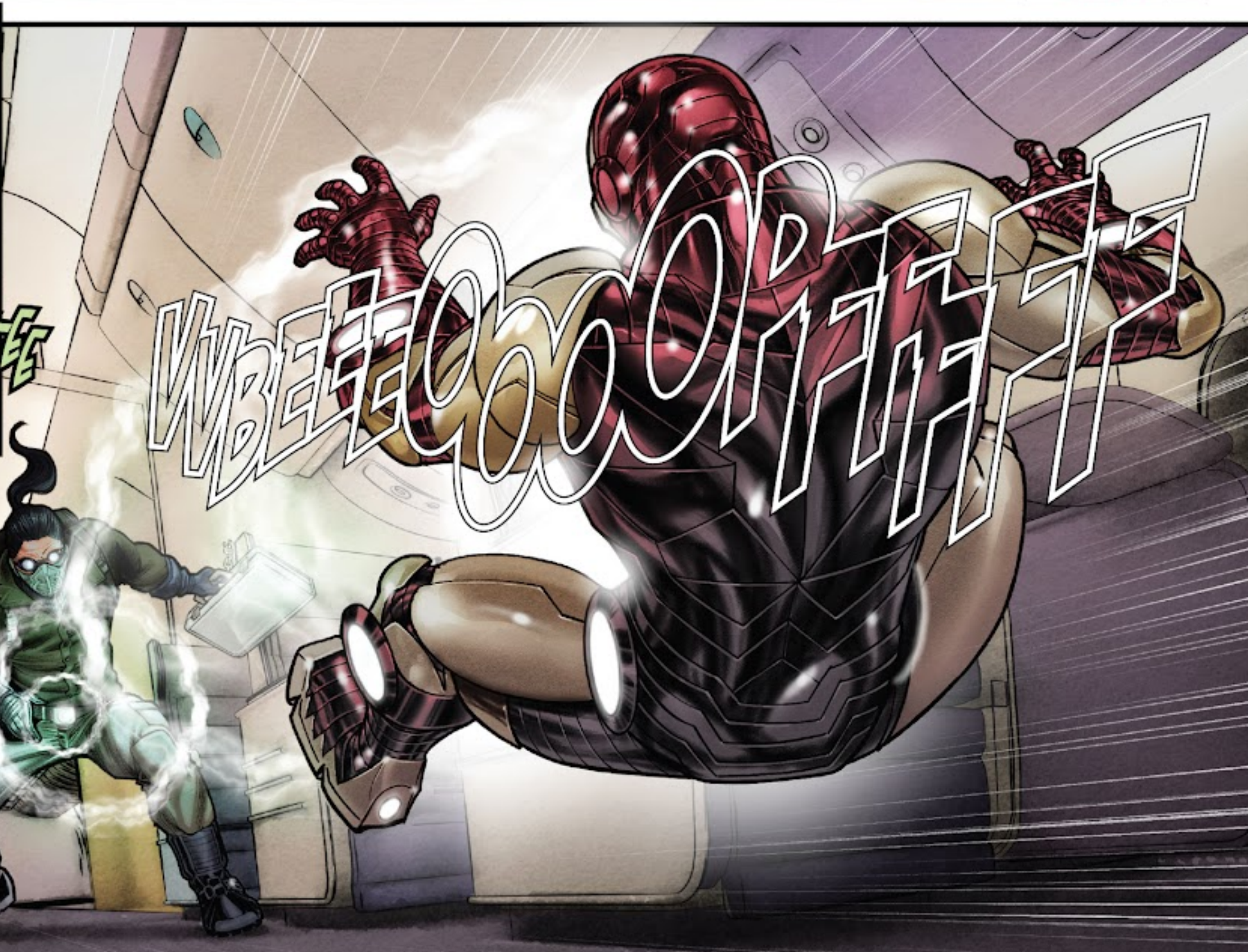
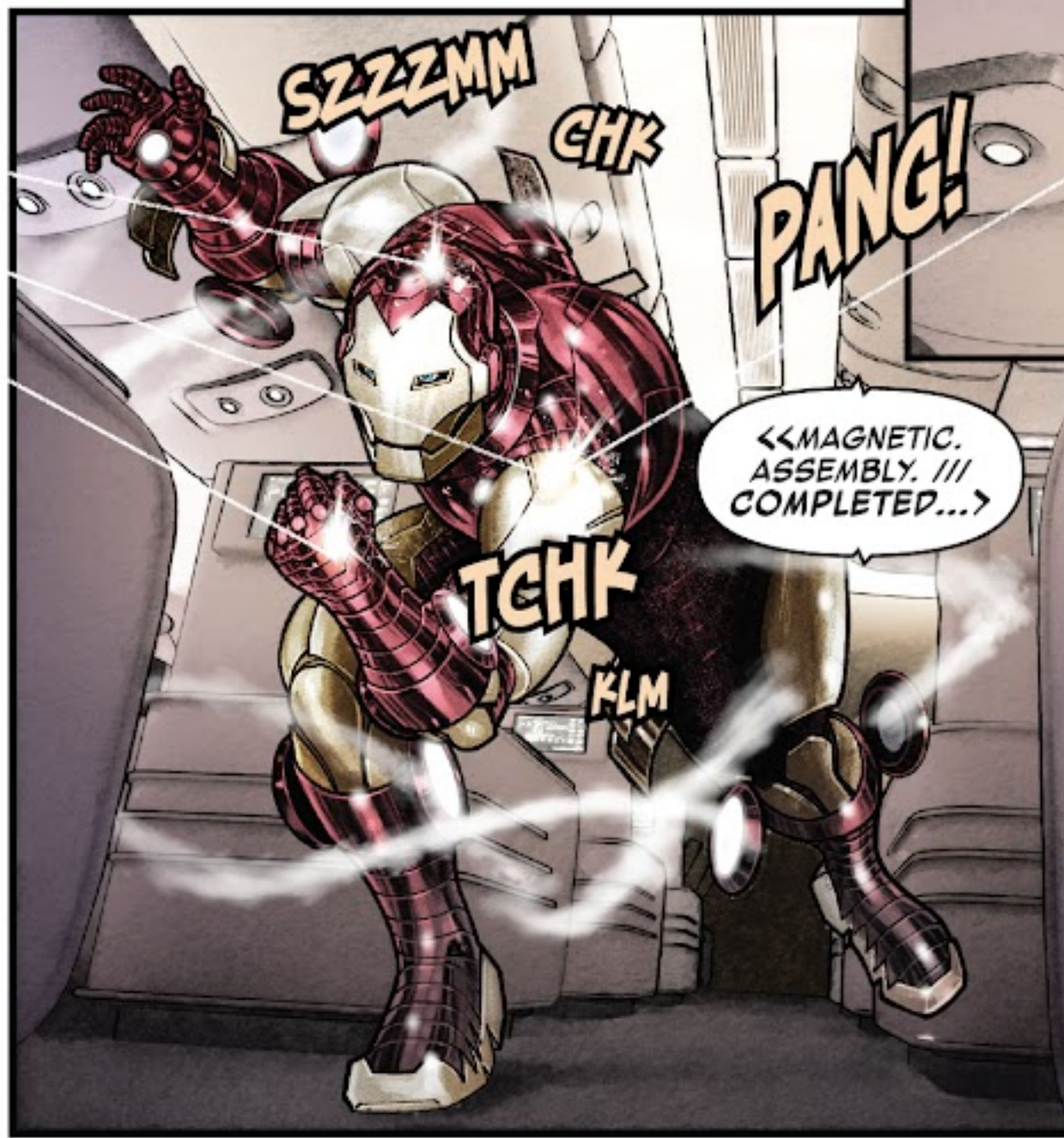
I'LL HAVE A GLASS OF **CHARDONNAY** PLEASE. TO CELEBRATE THE FACT THAT I'M SITTING NEXT TO **IRON MAN**.

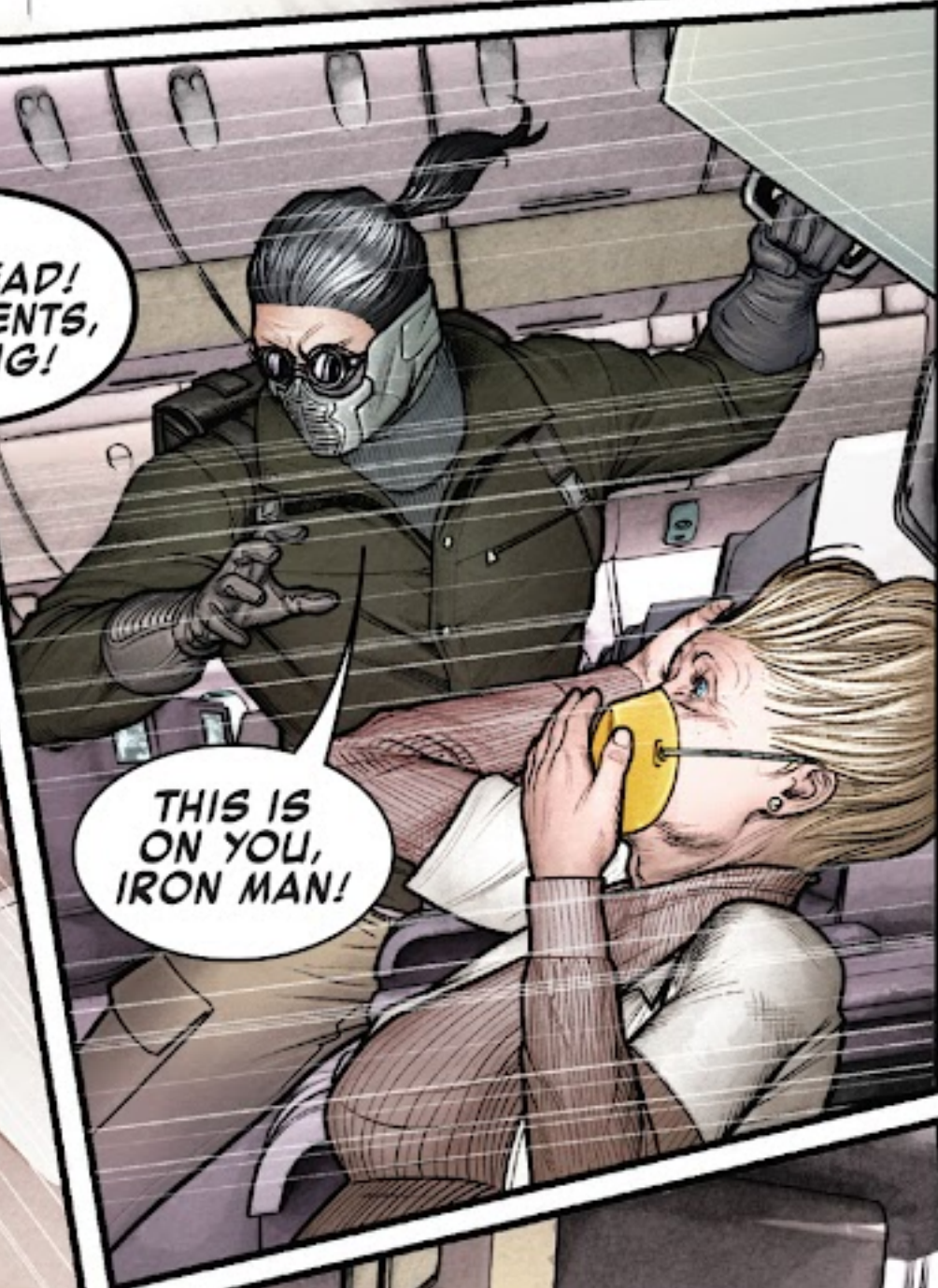
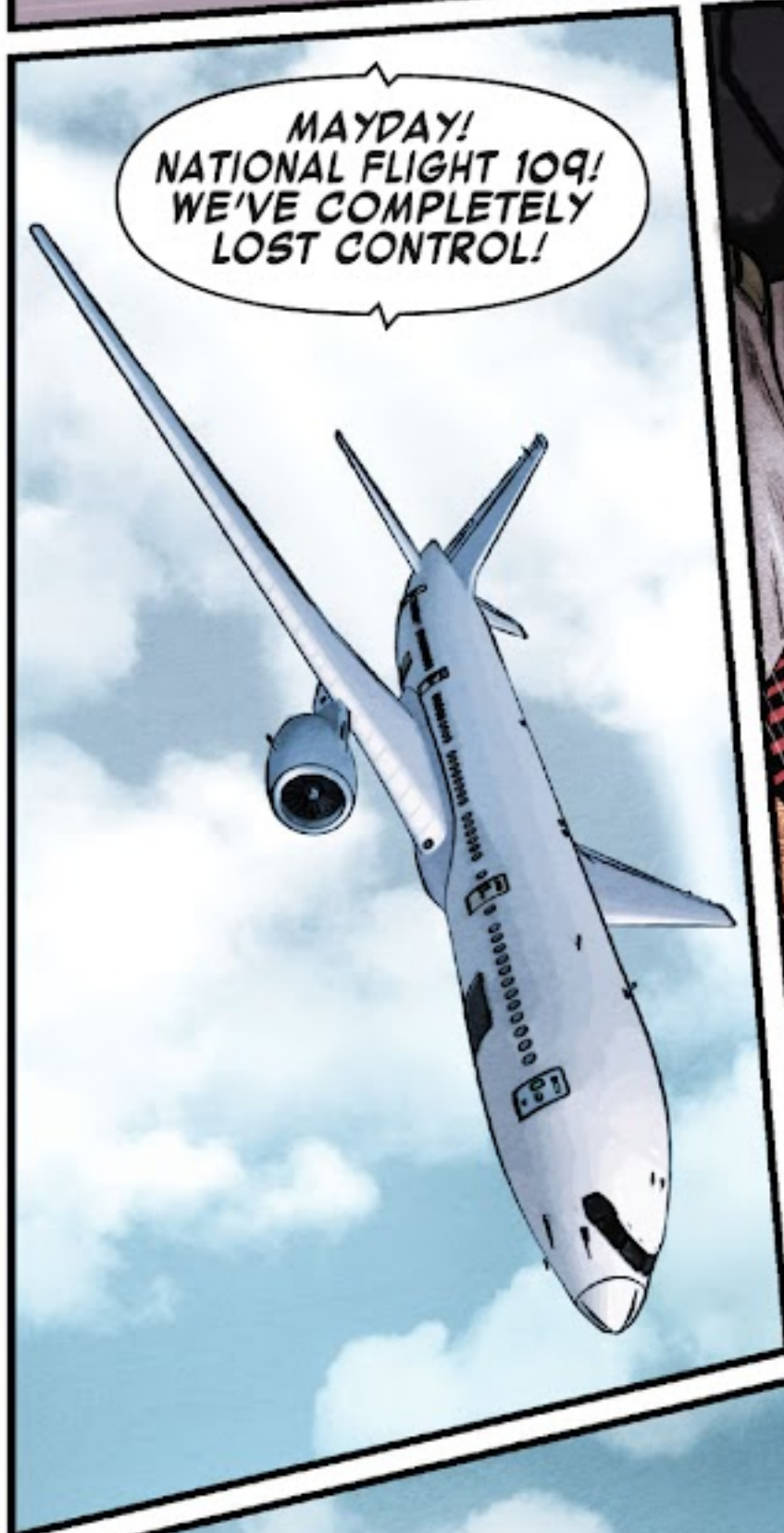
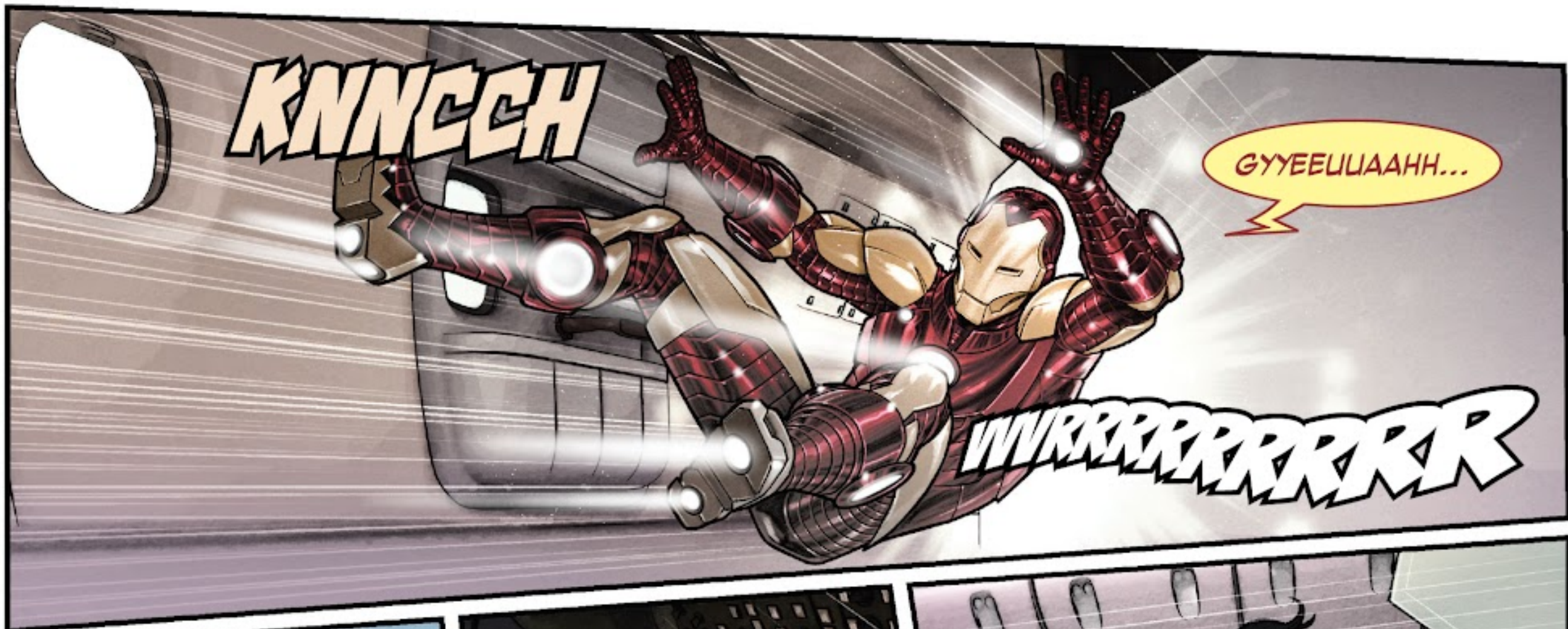
HAH...

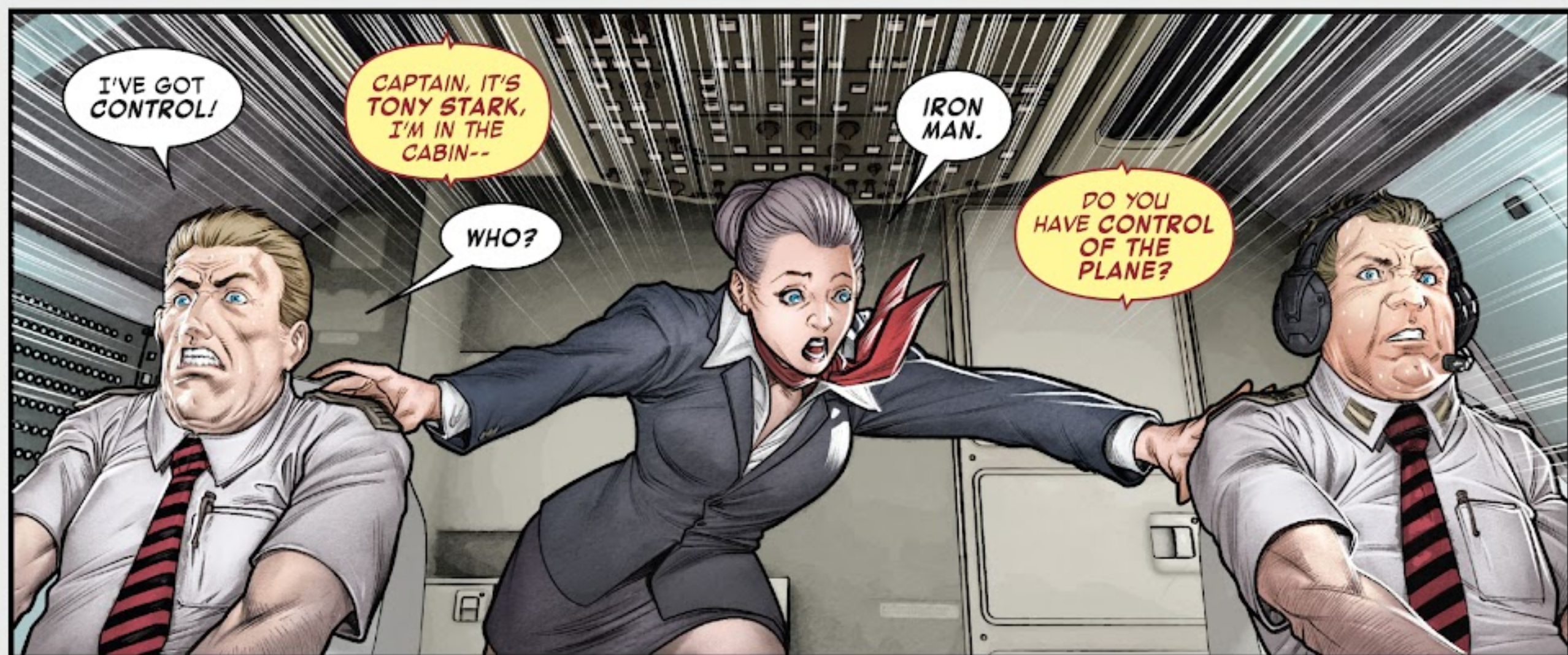








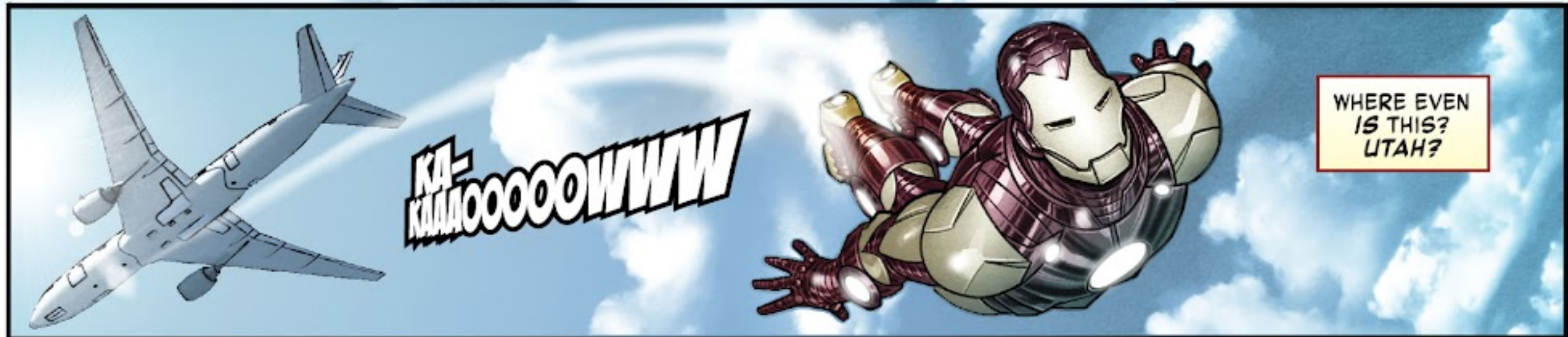




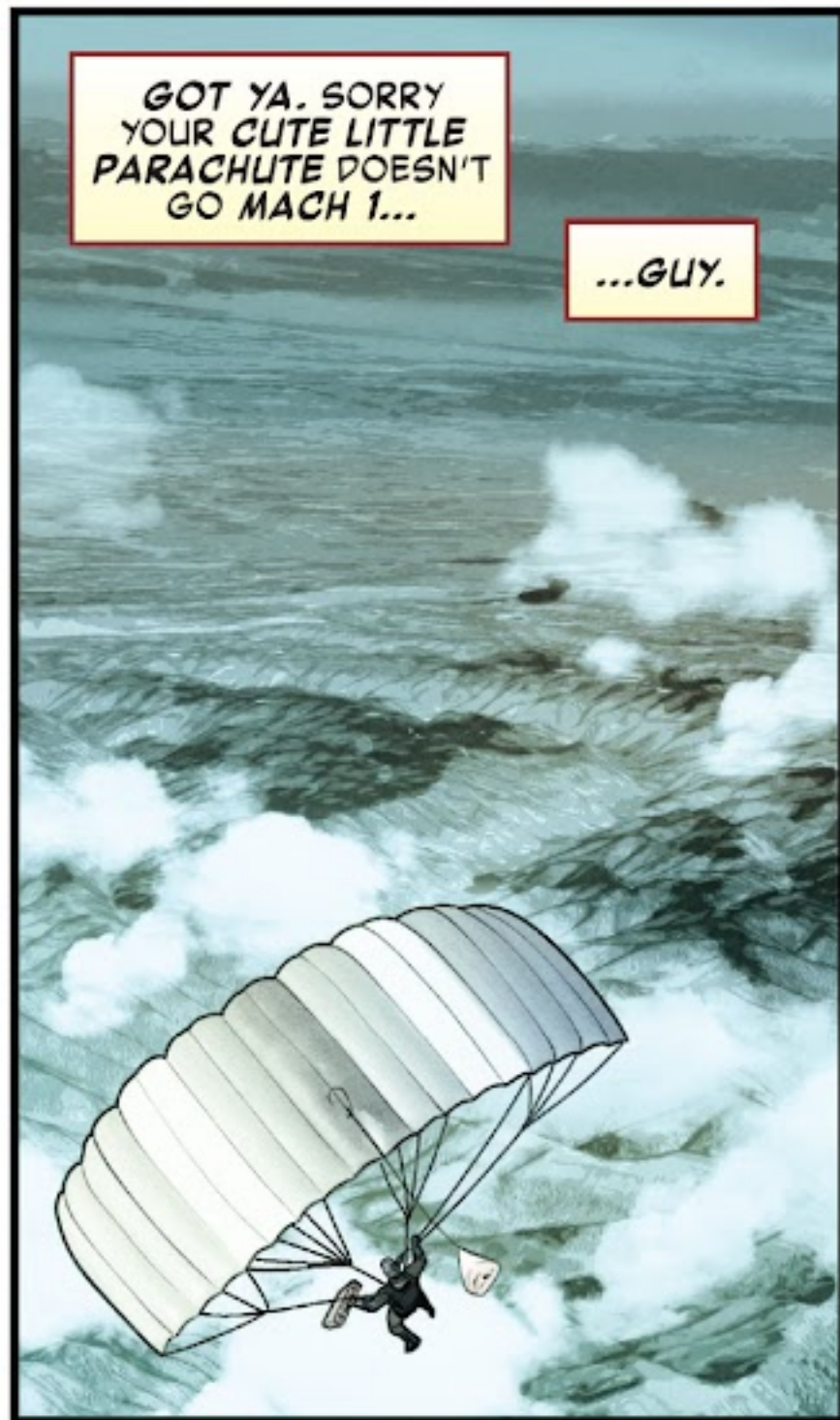


WEAPON
PLANS.

WHY COULDN'T IT
HAVE BEEN...I DON'T
KNOW...**BASEBALL
CARDS?**

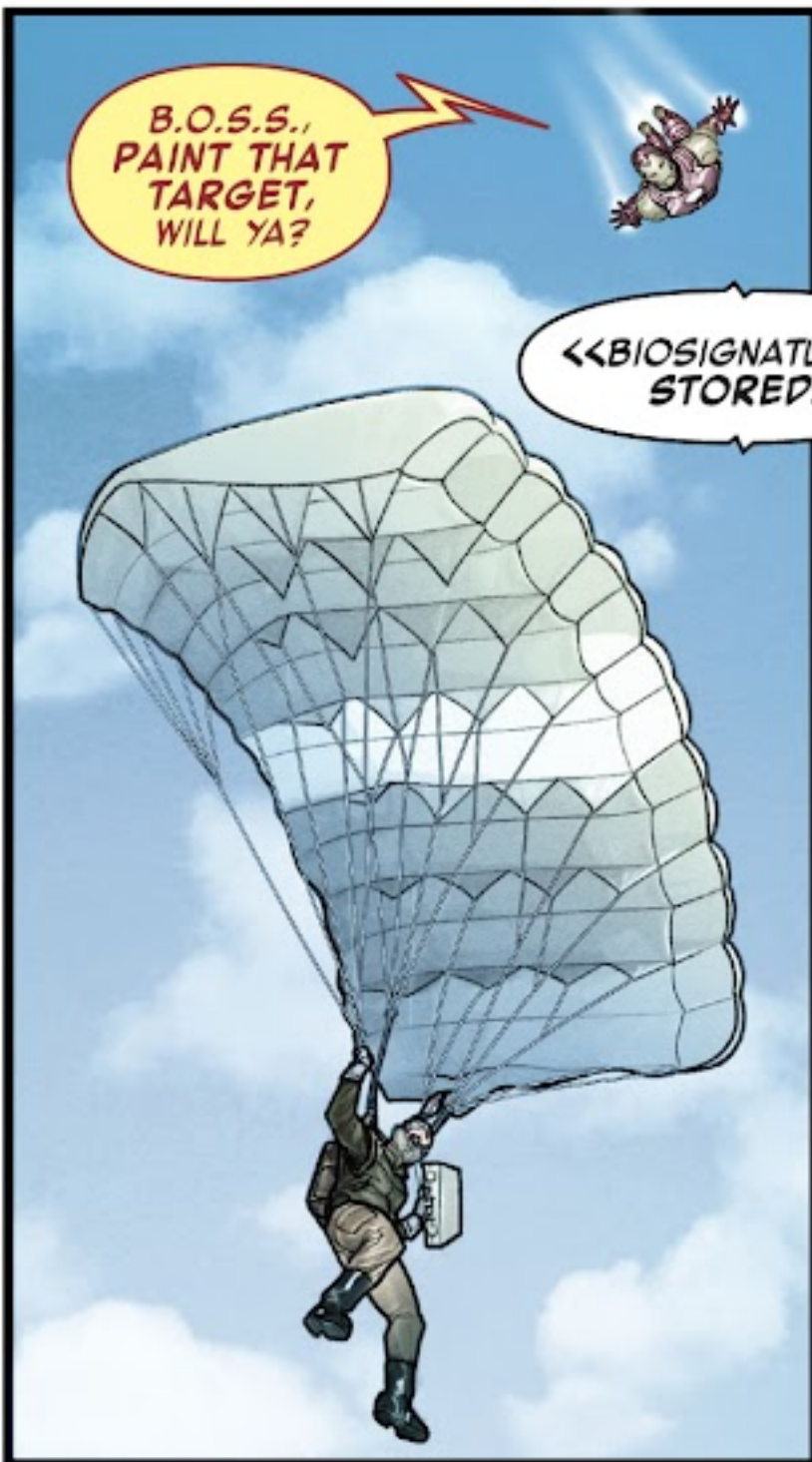


WHERE EVEN
IS THIS?
UTAH?



GOT YA. SORRY
YOUR CUTE LITTLE
PARACHUTE DOESN'T
GO MACH 1...

...GUY.

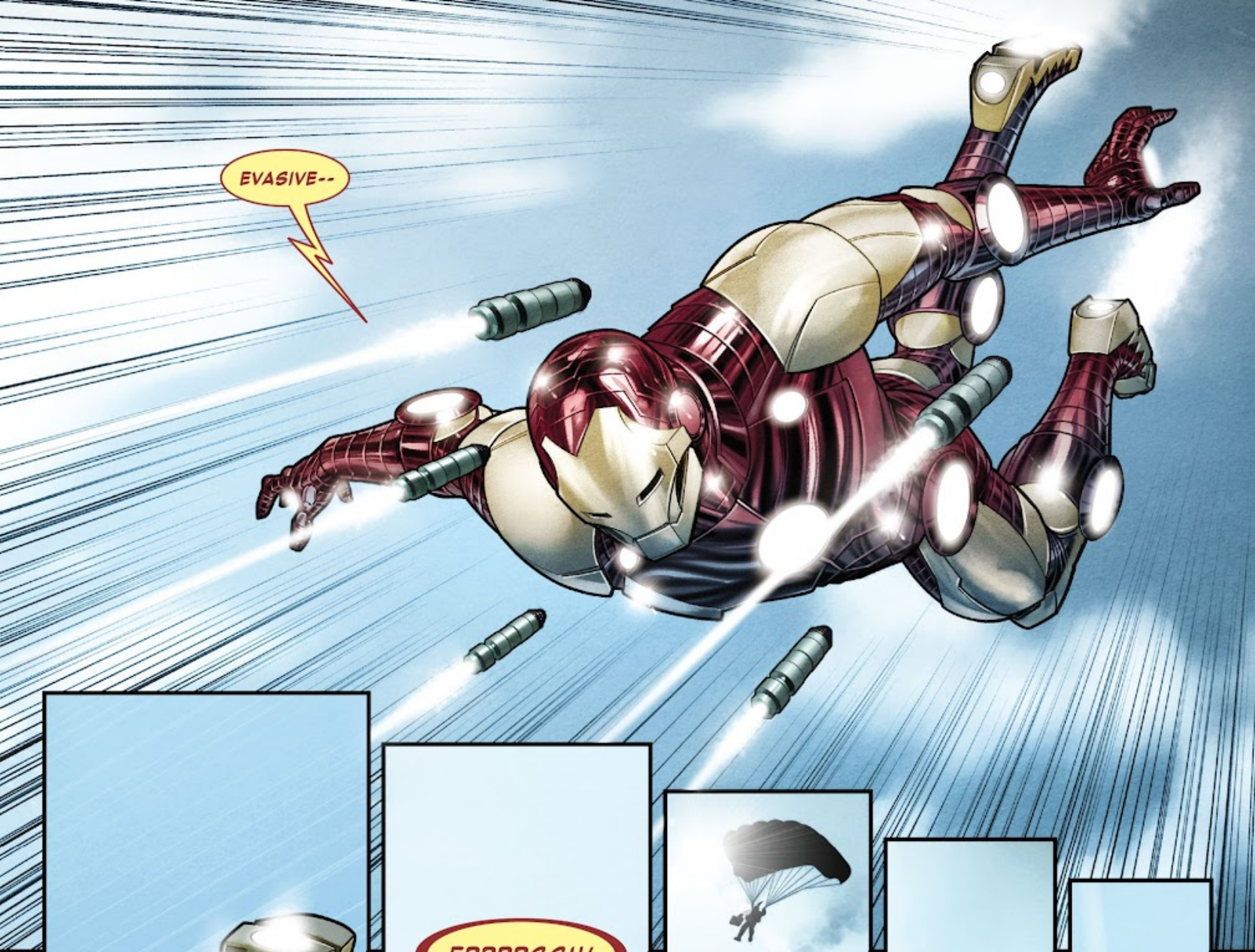


B.O.S.S.,
PAINT THAT
TARGET,
WILL YA?

<<BIOSIGNATURE>...
STORED.>



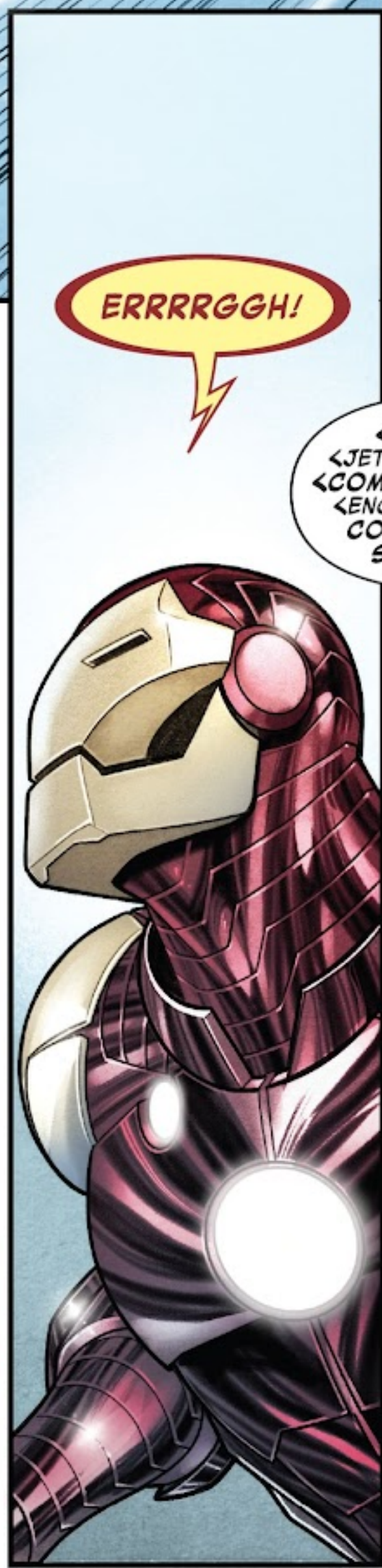
FFAFF



EVASIVE--



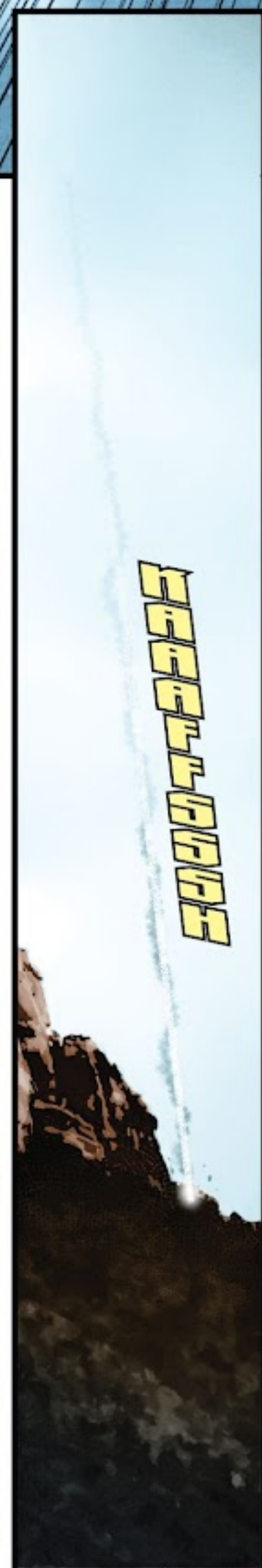
SSAATCH



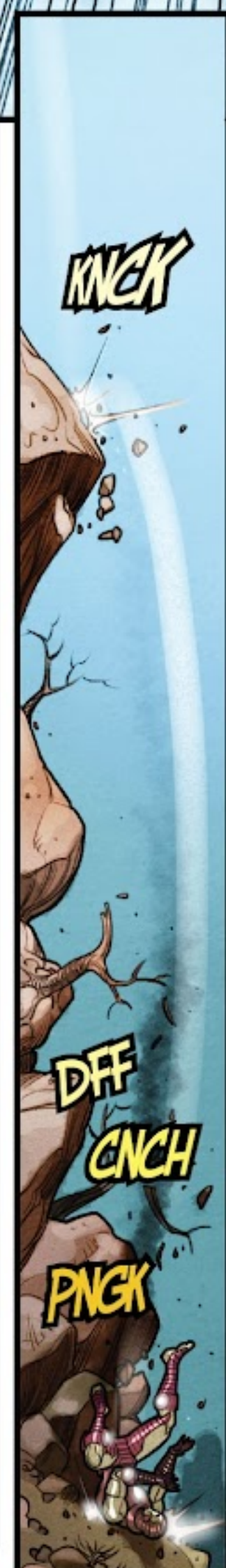
ERRRRGGH!



<WARNING.>
<JET BOOT SYSTEM.>
<COMPROMISED.>...>
<ENGAGING: FLIGHT
CONTROL AUTO-
SHUTDOWN.>



SCREEEEH

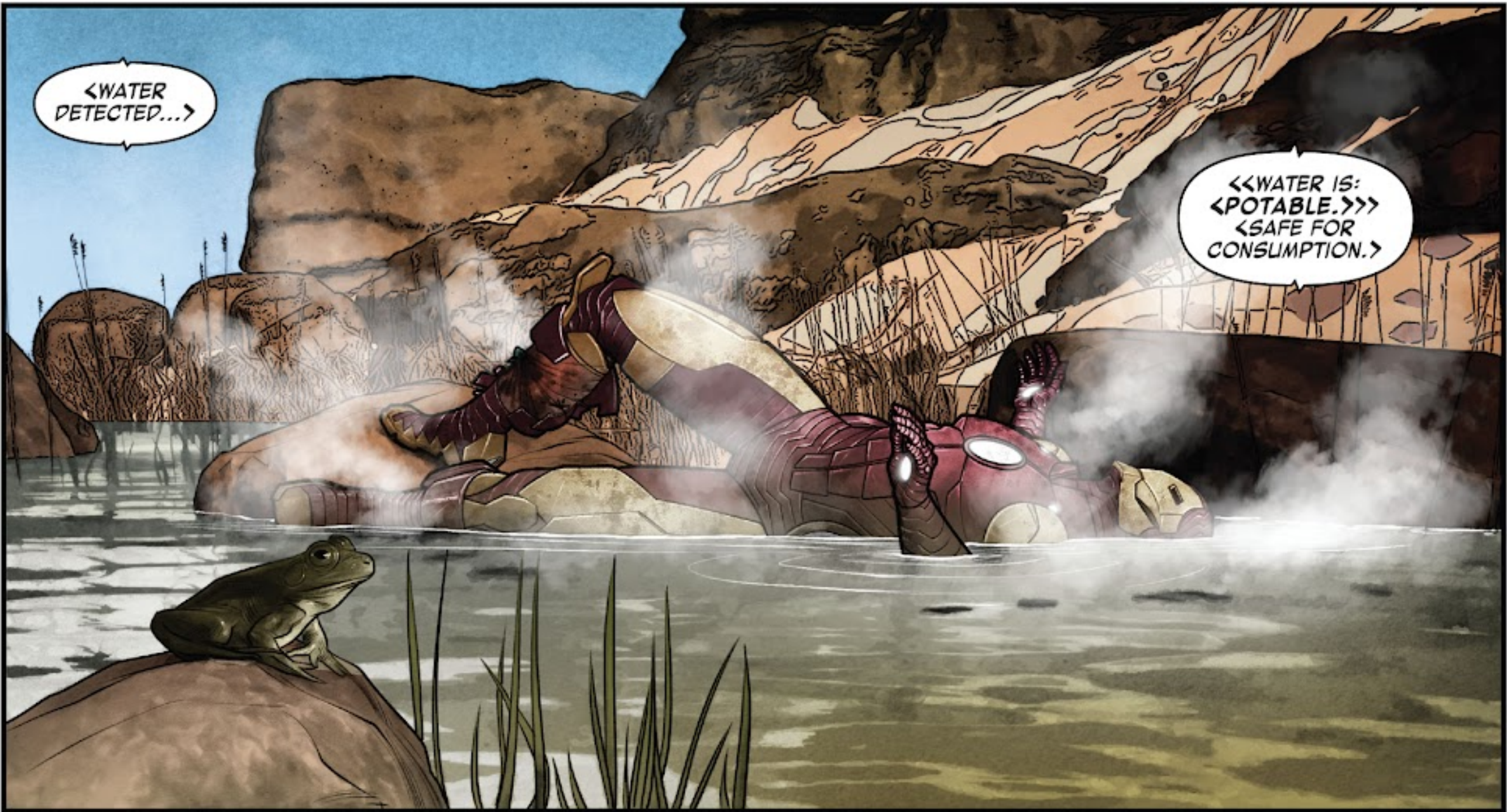


KNECK

DFF

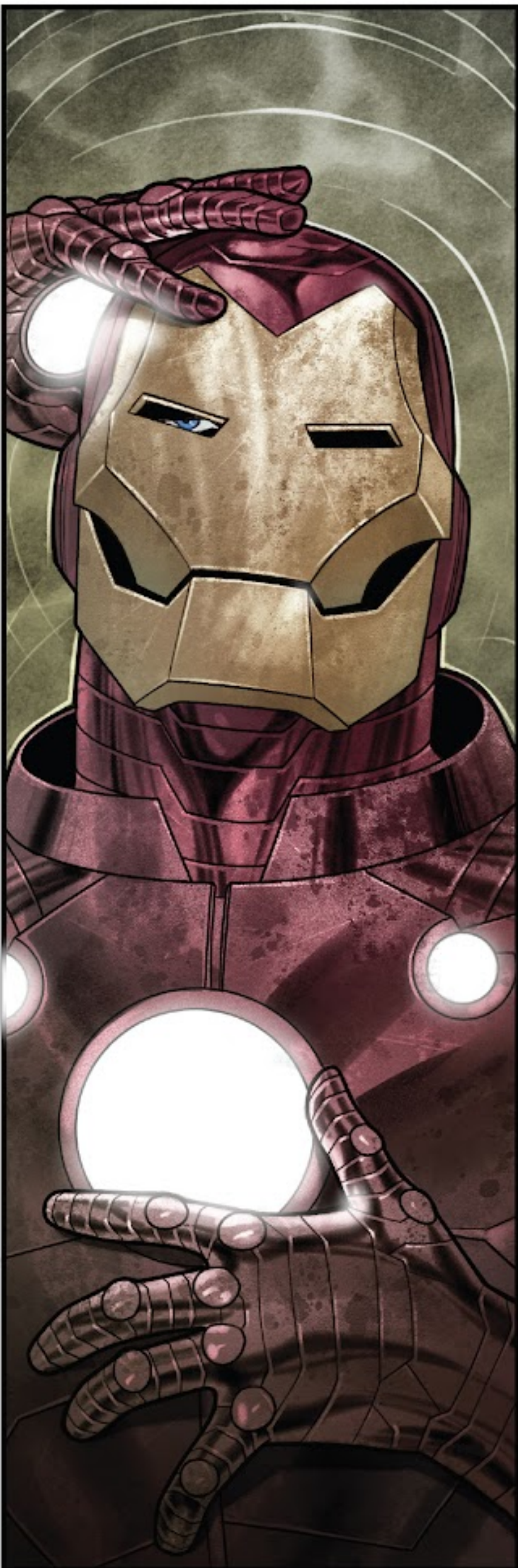
CNCH

PNGK



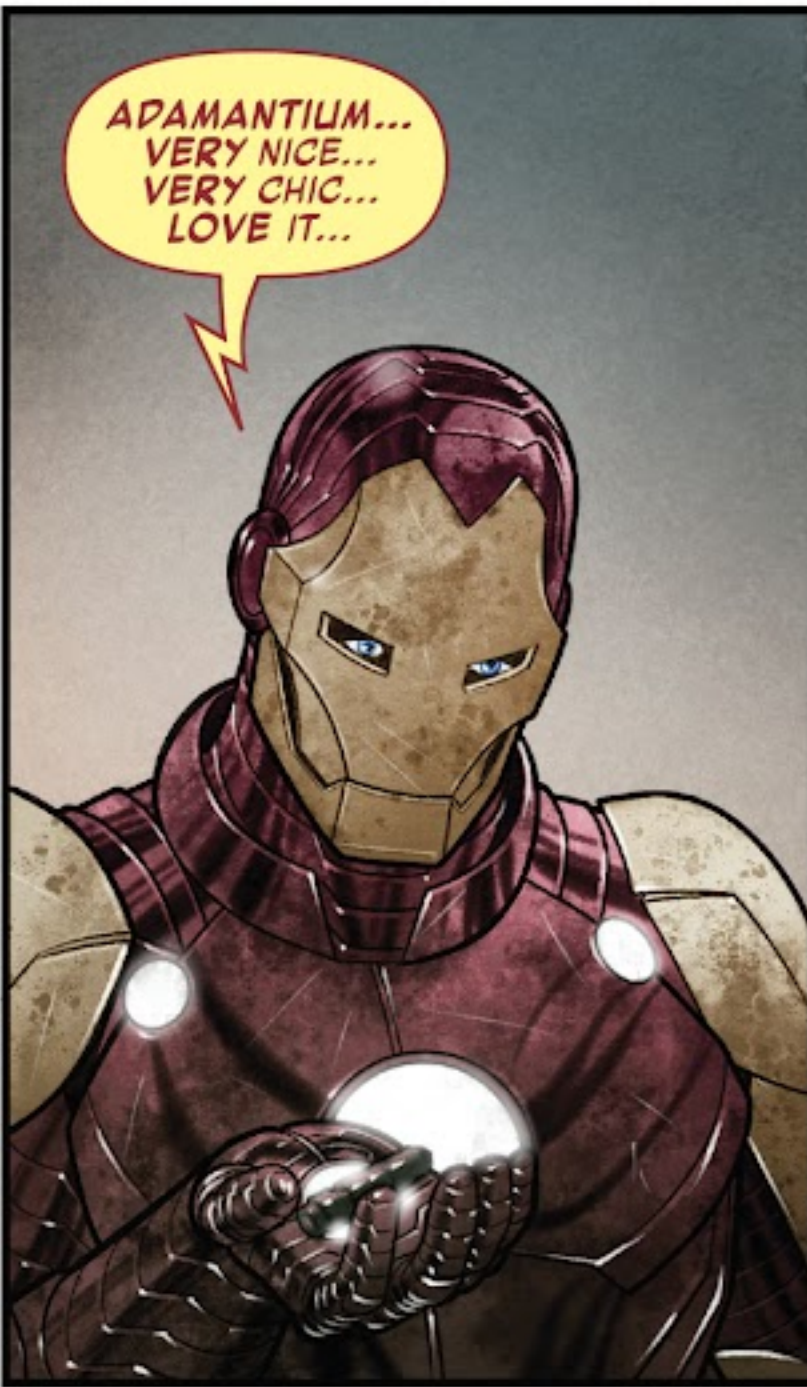
<WATER
DETECTED...>

<<WATER IS:
<POTABLE.>>>
<SAFE FOR
CONSUMPTION.>

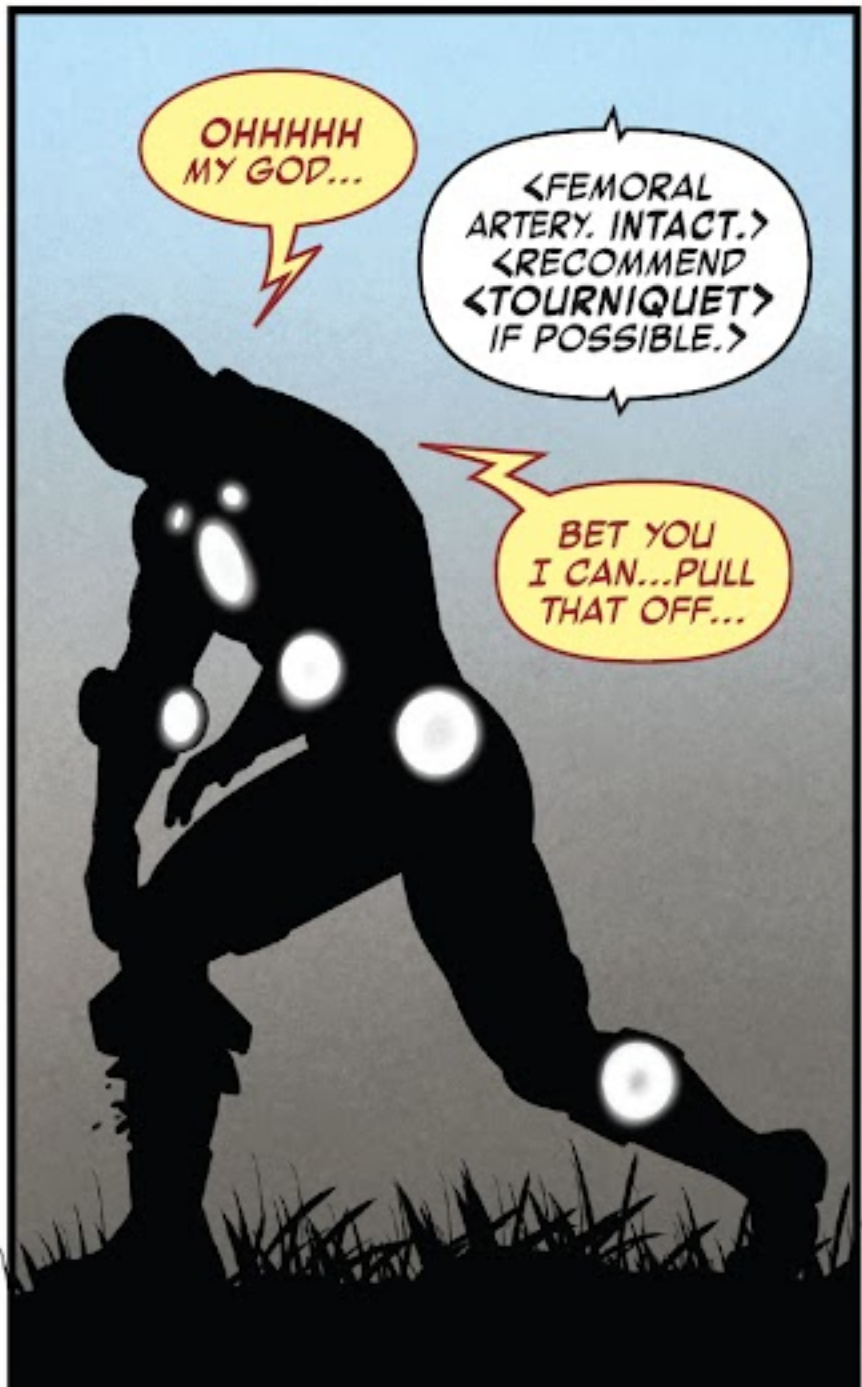


NNNNNGH--
THAT HURTS
A LOT...

<INJURY ANALYSIS:>
<TWO-INCH TEAR TO <RIGHT>
GASTROCNEMIUS MUSCLE DUE
TO <UNKNOWN><ADAMANTIUM>
OBJECT.><SECONDARY STRAIN IN
<RIGHT> SOLEUS MUSCLE. LIMITED
ROTATION OF <RIGHT>
ACHILLES TENDON.>



ADAMANTIUM...
VERY NICE...
VERY CHIC...
LOVE IT...



OHHHHH
MY GOD...

<FEMORAL
ARTERY. INTACT.>
<RECOMMEND
<TOURNIQUET>
IF POSSIBLE.>

BET YOU
I CAN...PULL
THAT OFF...



WHERE
THE HELL AM I,
B.O.S.S.?

<NAVIGATION
SYSTEM. OFFLINE.>
<GPS COORDINATES:
<UNKNOWN>.>

SO I'M LOST...
WONDERFUL...

<COMPASS
SYSTEM.
OPERATIONAL.>



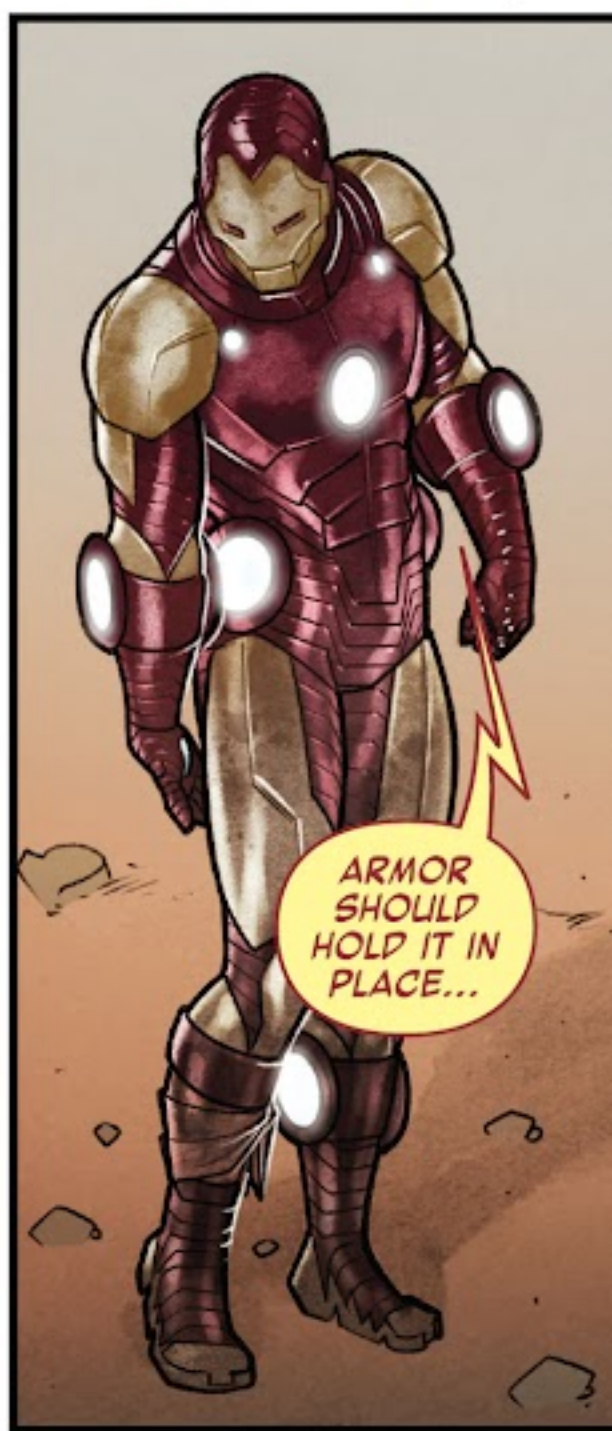
MAKE IT
TIGHT...



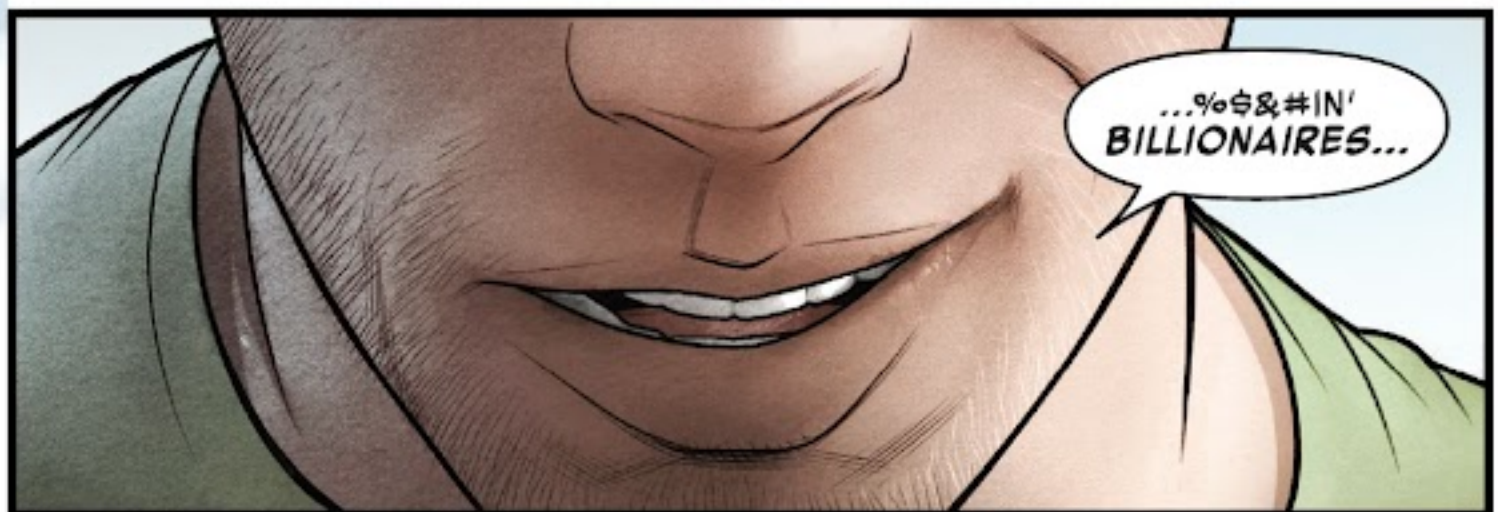
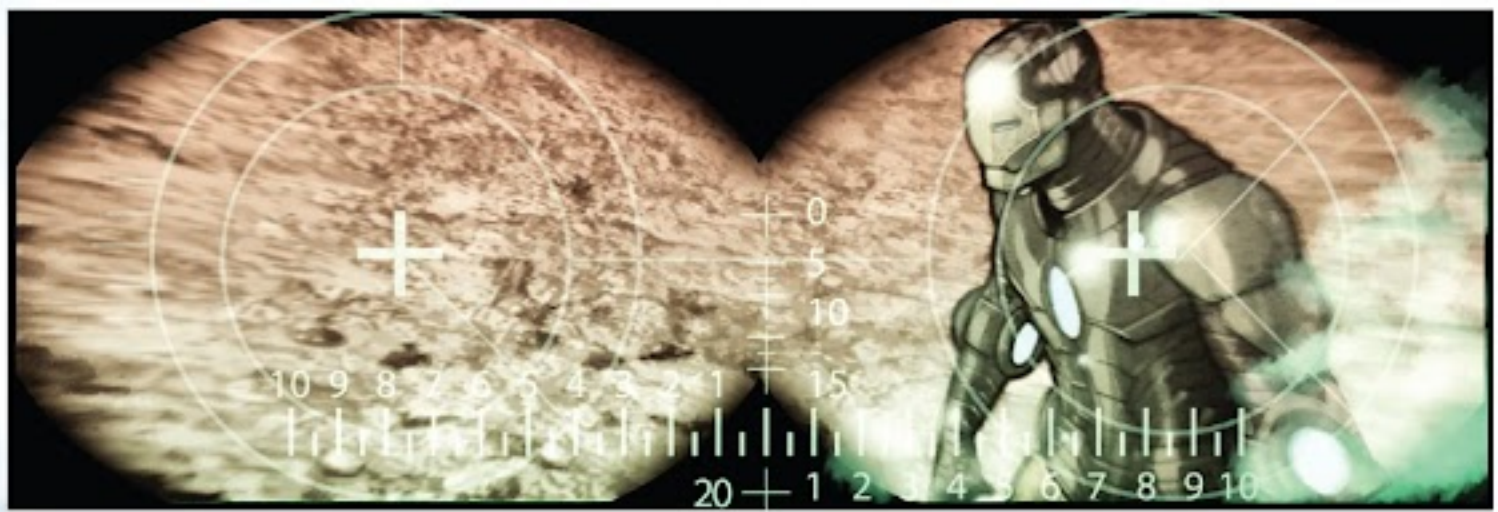
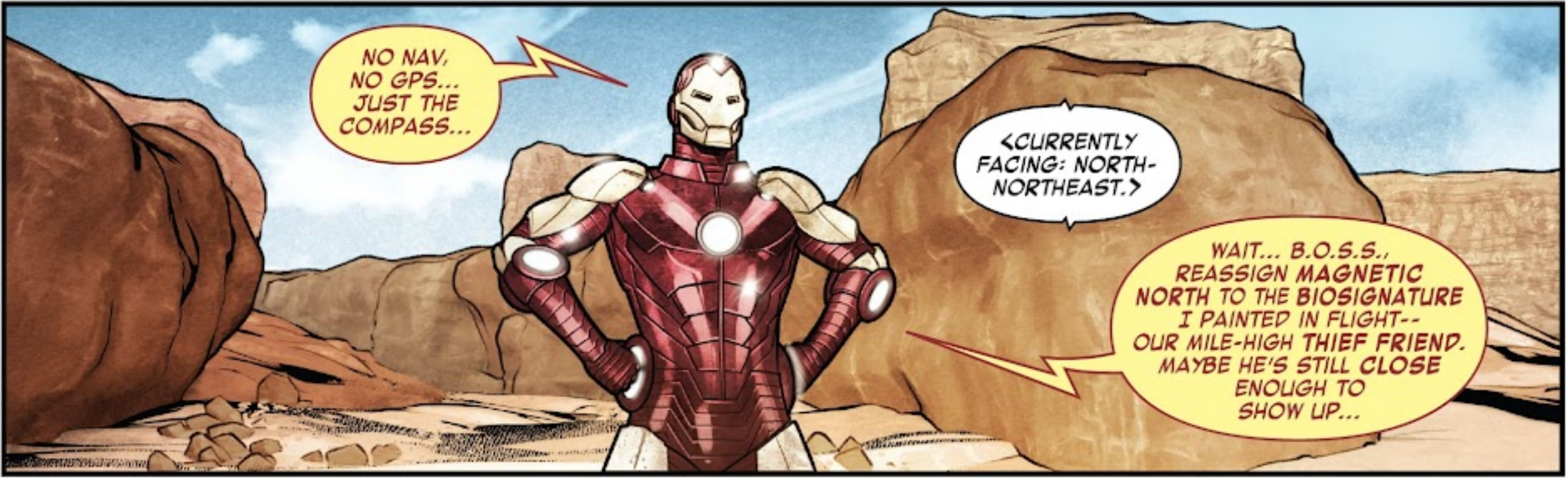
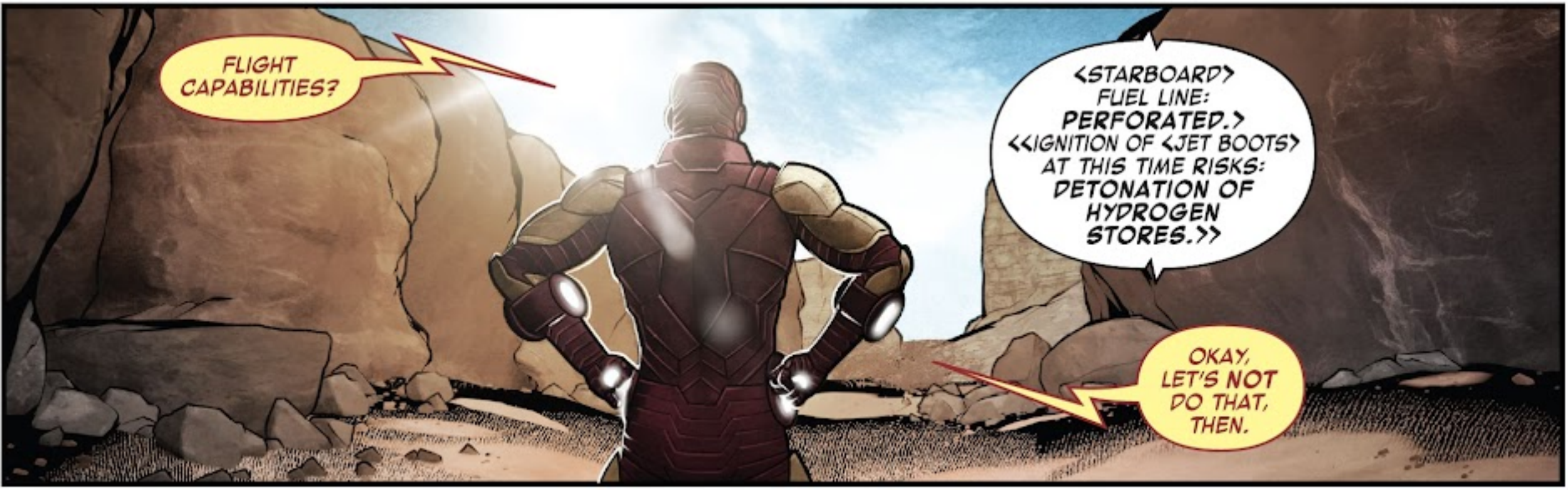
GNNNNNNNNH...



...KAY...
DEFINITELY
TIGHT...



ARMOR
SHOULD
HOLD IT IN
PLACE...





GOD, IT'S HOT...

<CURRENT TEMPERATURE: <96> DEGREES. FAHRENHEIT.>

FEELS LIKE MY A/C SYSTEM IS FAILING TO CYCLE...

<CORRECT.>



WELCOME TO MY WORLD, IRON MAN. HOW'RE YOUR LITTLE GIZMOS HOLDING UP OUT HERE?

YOU KIDDING? I LOVE THE FRESH AIR.



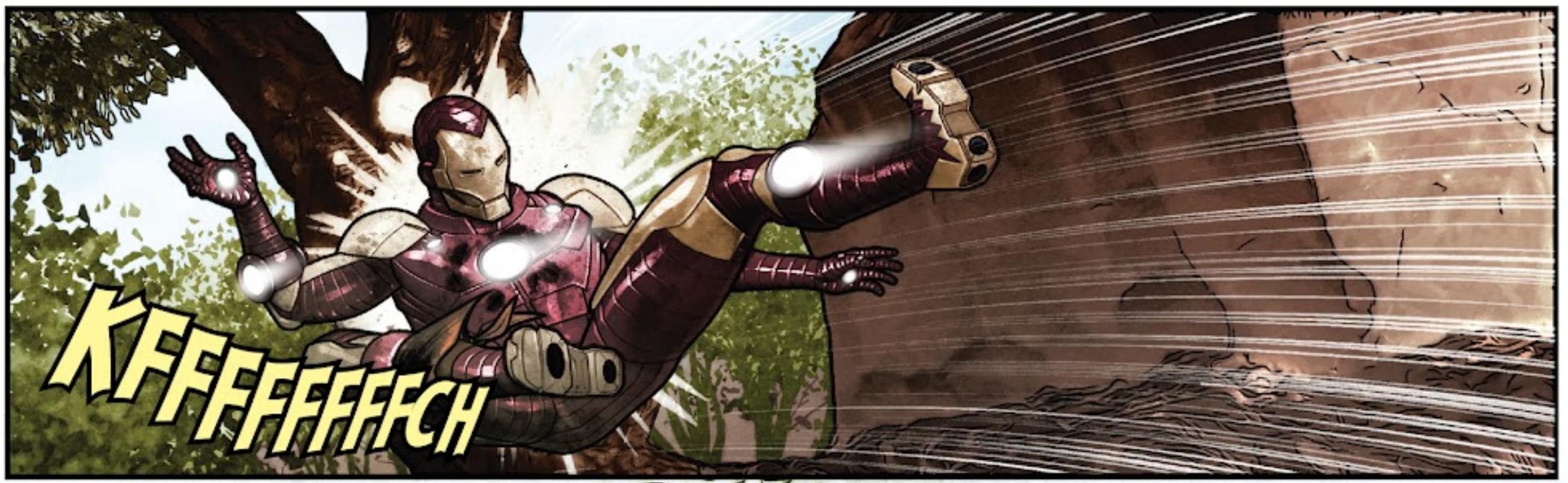
THANK

WHOOOOFFF

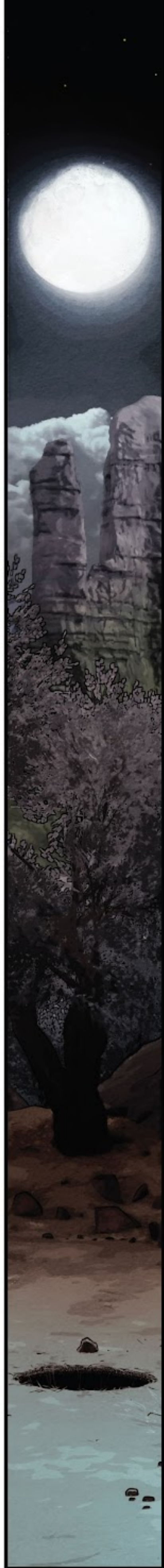


KNNNNNCH

HYUUNNHH...







OKAY.
THIS
SUCKS.

I COULD TRY
TO FLY OUT OF
HERE. BUT THEN
I MIGHT JUST
BLOW UP.

"SWITCHBACK" IS STILL
REGISTERING ON MY
COMPASS. PROBABLY
JUST WAITING NEARBY
TO STARVE ME OUT.

COLLECT THE
ARMOR OFF
MY BONES.



SOME MORPHINE
SURE WOULD KILL THE
PAIN IN MY LEG AND
CHEST RIGHT NOW.

CAN'T THINK
LIKE THAT
THOUGH.



OH. RAIN. IN THE
DESERT SOUTHWEST.
I'M SURE THIS HAPPENS
ALL THE TIME.

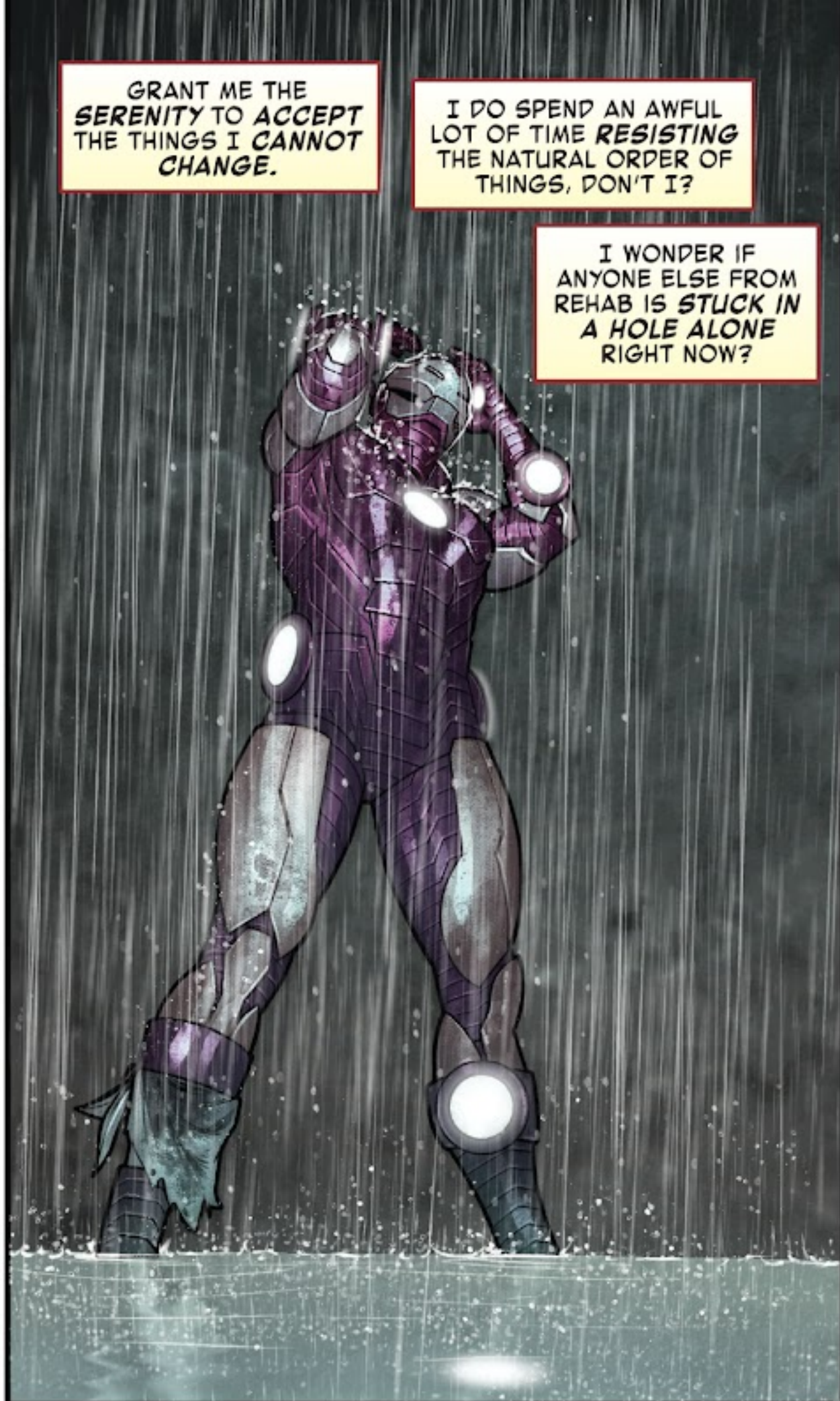


NO, STOP...
REMEMBER
THE FIRST
PART.

GRANT ME THE
SERENITY TO **ACCEPT**
THE THINGS I **CANNOT**
CHANGE.

I DO SPEND AN AWFUL
LOT OF TIME **RESISTING**
THE NATURAL ORDER OF
THINGS, DON'T I?

I WONDER IF
ANYONE ELSE FROM
REHAB IS **STUCK IN**
A HOLE ALONE
RIGHT NOW?



I MEAN...
SADLY...



...THE ANSWER
IS PROBABLY
YES.

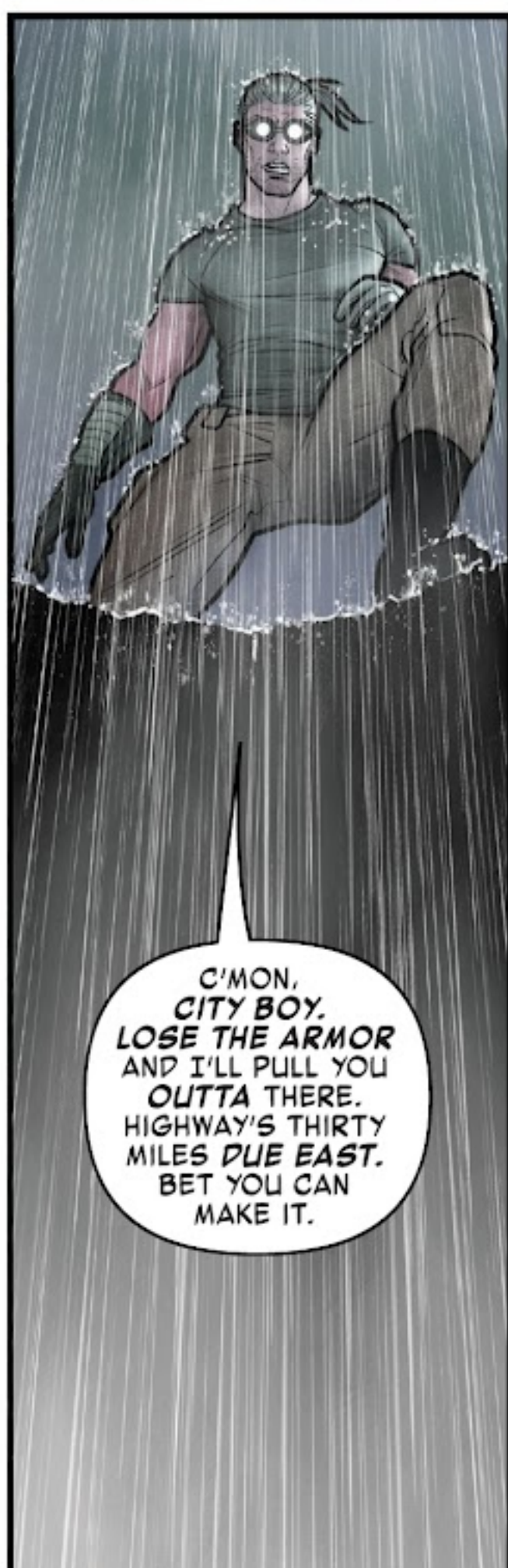


THIS
ISN'T GONNA
LET UP FOR
HOURS.

WHICH
MEANS THAT POOR
BASTARD'S GONNA
DROWN IN THERE AND
THEN THE ARMOR IS
GONNA **SMELL.**



C'MON,
CITY BOY.
LOSE THE ARMOR
AND I'LL PULL YOU
OUTTA THERE.
HIGHWAY'S THIRTY
MILES **DUE EAST.**
BET YOU CAN
MAKE IT.





UNLESS
THAT SUIT
HAS A *SCUBA*
FUNCTION I'M
NOT AWARE
OF?



WHAT, ARE
YOUR *FEELINGS*
HURT? DID I DING
THAT *FRAGILE*
EGO?



HARD TO *TEAR*
A MAN DOWN WHEN
HE'S ALREADY
HIT *ROCK*
BOTTOM.

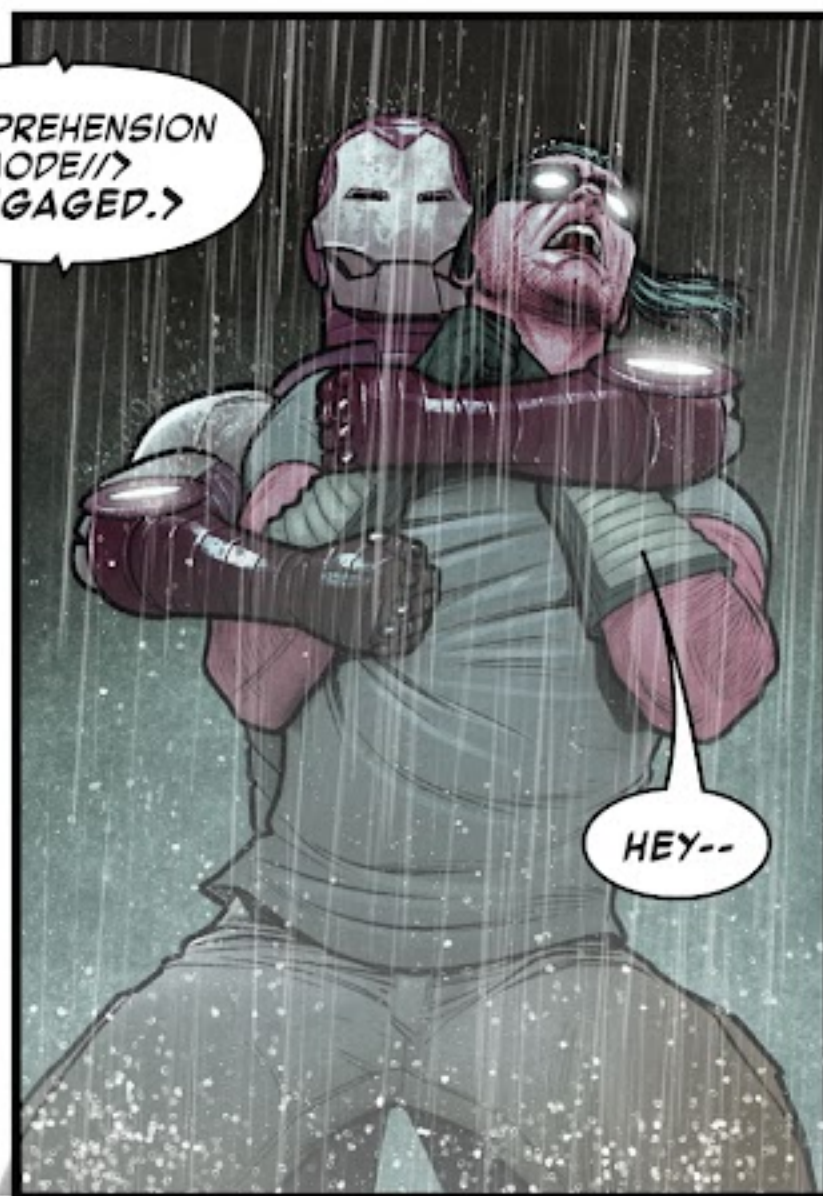


GOOOOFFF!



WATCH OUT FOR THE
DEADFALL....

B.O.S.S.,
RESTRAIN HIM,
PLEASE...



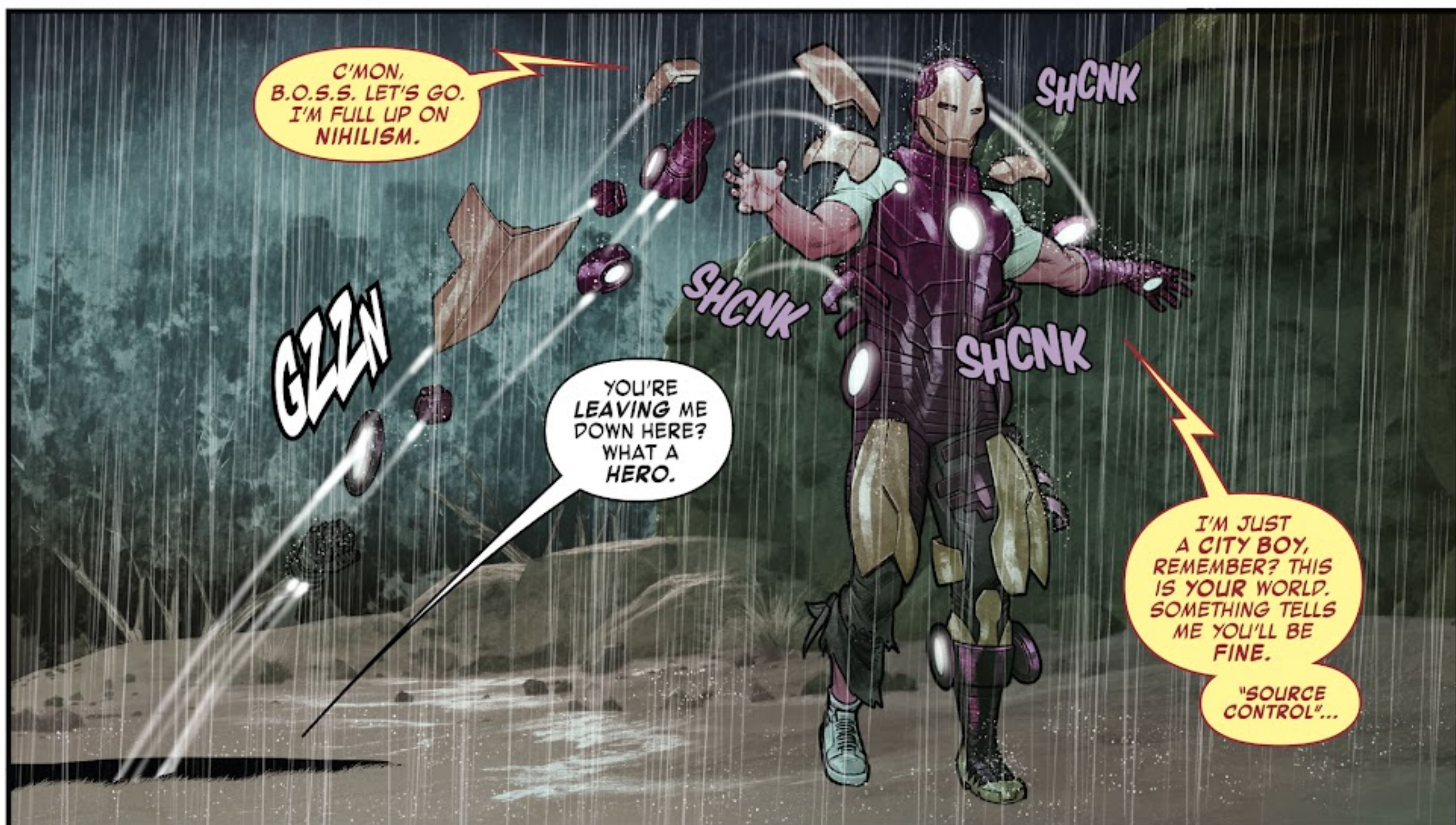
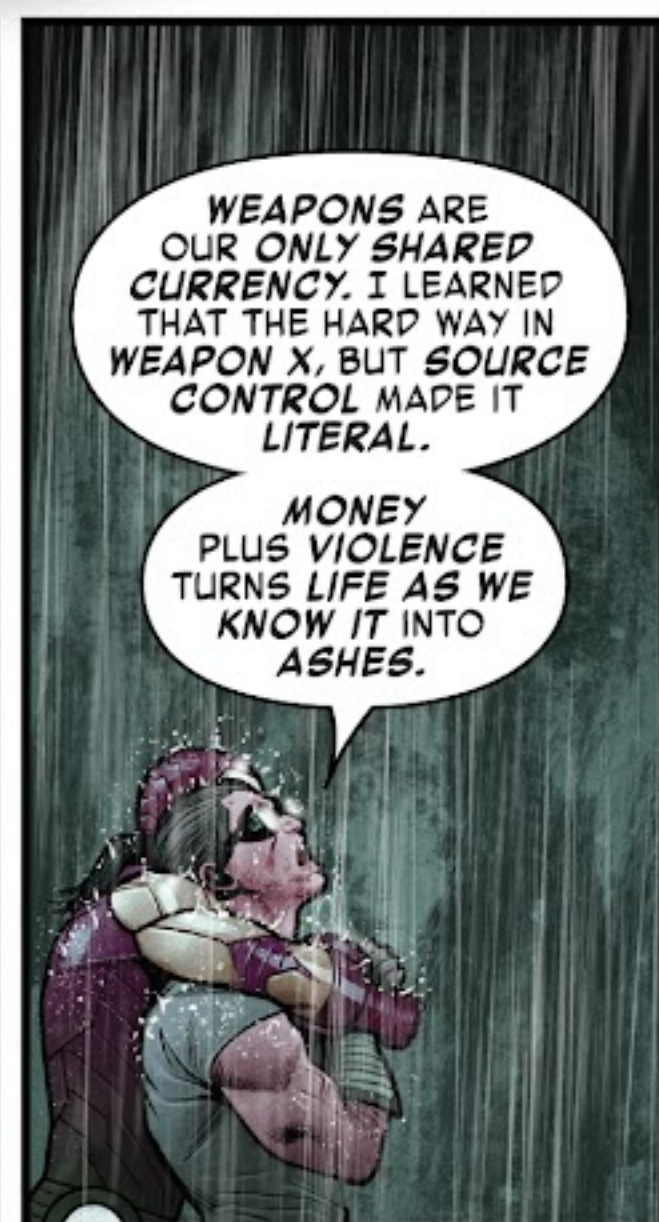
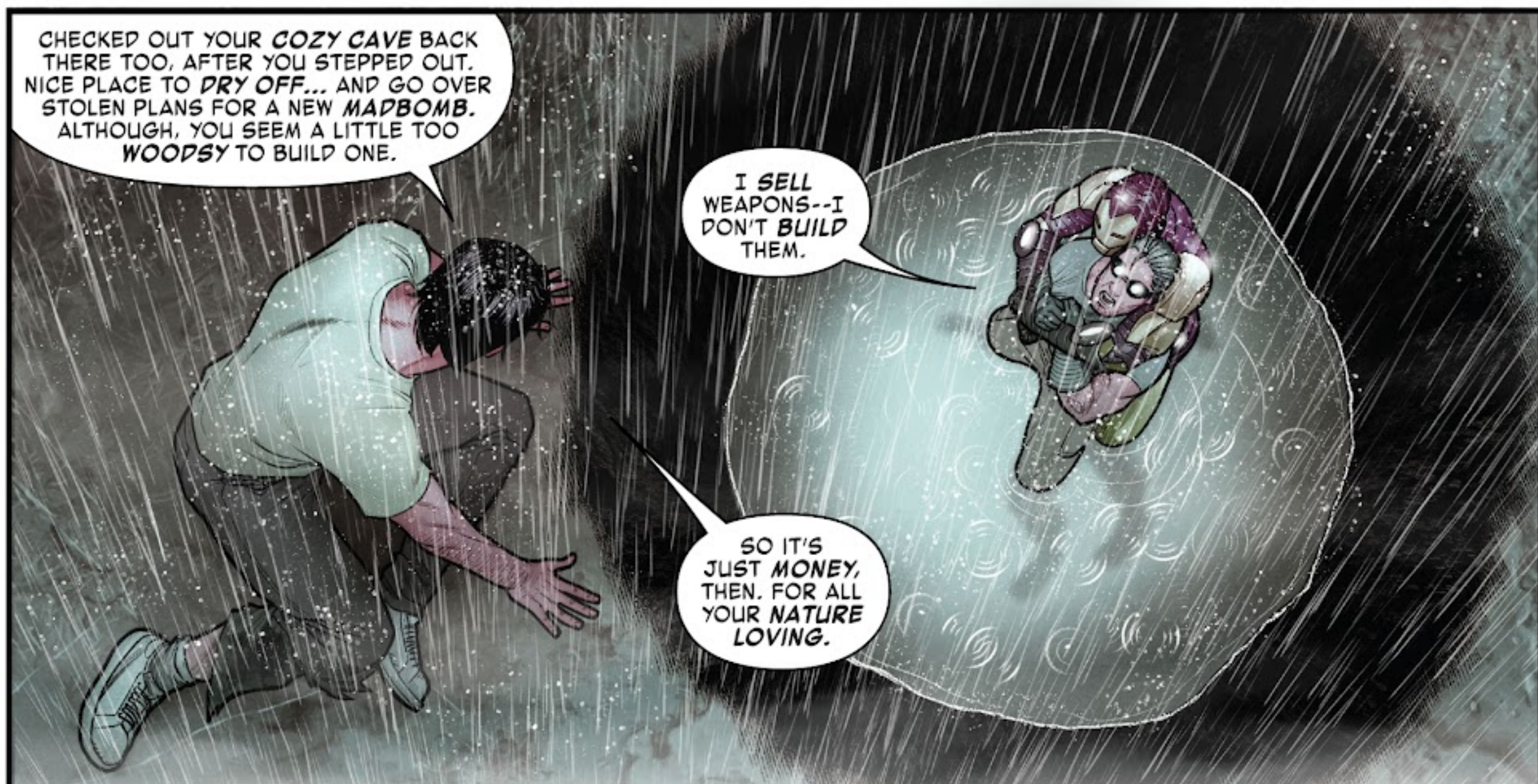
<APPREHENSION
MODE>
<ENGAGED>

HEY--



IN RECOVERY, THEY SAY WE *STEP OFF*
THE *SHOULDERS* OF THE ONES STRONG
ENOUGH TO *SUPPORT* US.

TURNS OUT
MY *SUIT'S* SHOULDERS ARE
PRETTY STRONG AND TALL
ENOUGH FOR ME TO GRIP THE
EDGE OF THIS *##%%\$ HOLE*
OF YOURS.



DAYS LATER.

"RHODEY... I DIDN'T KNOW IF YOU WERE READY TO TALK TO ME AFTER...**EVERYTHING...** BUT I NEED YOUR HELP, SO... **THANKS FOR COMING.**"

IT SOUNDED IMPORTANT.

IT IS. I'M BUYING A MADBOMB.

COOL. MAKES TOTAL SENSE.

LISTEN, I'VE BEEN DIGGING, AND THERE'S A THRIVING **INTERNATIONAL BLACK MARKET** RIGHT NOW FOR **HIGH-POWERED WEAPONS AND TECHNOLOGY**. A SEEMINGLY **IMPENETRABLE** NETWORK KNOWN AS **SOURCE CONTROL**.

I JUST ENCOUNTERED ONE OF ITS **OPERATORS** IN UTAH.

I'VE HEARD OF IT... LOOK, TONY--

GOOD. BECAUSE I'M PUTTING **EVERY DOLLAR I HAVE** INTO IT. I'M GONNA TRY AND BUY UP **EVERYTHING** FOR SALE IN THE NETWORK.

LOOKING TO GET **KICKED OUT** OF THE AVENGERS AGAIN?

I NEED TO SHUT DOWN **SOURCE CONTROL** **BLOODLESSLY**. I GO IN WEARING **BRIGHT RED AND GOLD**--OR WITH THE **FULL TEAM**--AND THERE WILL BE **SERIOUS CASUALTIES**.

THIS HAS TO BE **COVERT**. I BUY THE WEAPONS FROM **BEHIND A CURTAIN**, THEN I **DISMANTLE** THEM WITHOUT THEM **EVER GOING OFF**.



NEXT



IRON MAN AND WAR MACHINE ARE OUT TO AVENGE VIC MARTINELLI'S DEATH AND TAKE ON SOURCE CONTROL, A BLACK MARKET NETWORK OF THE MOST LETHAL WEAPONS AND TECHNOLOGY IN EXISTENCE. IRON MAN IS ABOUT TO GO HARD. HE'S ABOUT TO GO...STEALTH.

FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE RESOURCES, CALL THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION'S NATIONAL HELPLINE AT 1-800-662-HELP (4357).

